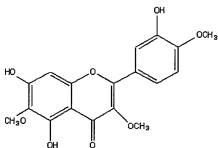


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

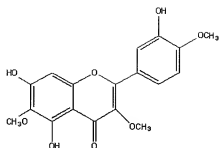
7. (Previously presented) A method for whitening skin comprising:

a step of applying Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to the skin of an individual in need of skin whitening, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



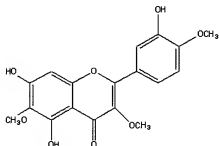
8-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A method for whitening skin comprising applying a skin preparation for external use comprising 0.005 to 5% by weight of Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to an individual in need of skin whitening, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



13. (Previously presented) The method for whitening skin according to claim 12, wherein the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.

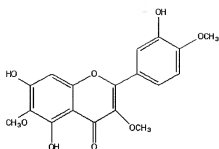
14. (Previously presented) A method for treating dyschromatosis comprising:
a step of applying Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to the skin of an individual in need of a treatment for dyschromatosis, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A method for treating dyschromatosis comprising applying a skin preparation for external use comprising 0.005 to 5% by weight of Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to an individual in need of a treatment for dyschromatosis, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:

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17. (Previously presented) The method for treating dyschromatosis according to claim 16, wherein the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.